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ABSTRACT

A surface mode liquid crystal device, for example of the pi-cell type, comprises a layer of nematic liquid crystal (10) disposed between alignment layers (4,9) and an electrode arrangement (3,8). The nematic liquid crystal has viscosity coefficients η_1, η_2 and γ_1 such that $(\eta_1-\eta_2)/\gamma_1 \geq 1.15$ or $(\eta_1-\eta_2)/\gamma_1 \leq 0.9$.